

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 ACDA-12 /091 W  
-----123896 061846Z /43  
R 061519Z SEP 78  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7629

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT WB  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD TO BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN CROSSING  
POINT STIRS CONTROVERSY

SUMMARY: WITH GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE ON VACATION, SENATOR FOR HOUSING AND COSTRUCTION HARRY RISTOCK (SPD) HAS PRECIPITATED A ROW WITH FDP PARTY CHAIRMAN WOLFGANG LUEDER OVER THE ROUTING OF THE ACCESS ROAD BETWEEN BERLIN'S INNER-CITY AUTOBAHN NET AND HEILIGENSEE, WHERE THE BORDER CROSSING POINT TO THE PROPOSED HAMBURG-BERLIN AUTOBAHN IS EXPECTED TO BE BUILT. PRESS COMMENTARIES AND PUBLIC EXCHANGES BY POLITICIANS HAVE GIVEN A FORETAST OF THE TYPE OFDISPUTE BORDERING ON POLITICAL POSTURING WE CAN EXPECT IN THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

1. AS BERLIN'S AUGUST VACATION PERIOD WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, SENATOR FOR HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION HARRY RISTOCK (SPD) UNEXPECTEDLY AND, IN THE VIEW OF SOME SPD OBSERVERS PREMATURELY, ANNOUNCED THAT HE FAVORED EXTENDING THE PRESENT INNER-CITY AUTOBAHN SYSTEM FROM REINICKENDORF THROUGH THE TEGELER FOREST TO HEILIGENSEE ON THE WEST BERLIN-GDR BORDER WHERE THE CROSSING POINT FOR THE BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN IS  
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EXPECTED TO BE LOCATED. RISTOCK'S PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CUTTING DOWN 16 ACRES OF FOREST AND SCRUB LAND, IMMEDIATELY DREW SHARP CRITICISM FROM BERLIN MAYOR WOLFGANG LUEDER (FDP). LUEDER, WHO IN HIS CAPACITY AS SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BERLIN'S FORESTS, AND WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF BERLIN'S WEAKENED AND HARD-PRESSED FDP, FELT OBLIGED TO ACCACK RISTOCK'S PLAND AN

PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE: TO BROADEN THE EXISTING RUPPINER CHAUSSEE, WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE THE CUTTING OF ONLY EIGHT ACRES OF FOREST. (COMMENT: OVERLOOKED THUS FAR BY THE PRESS AND APPARENTLY THE FDP IS THE FACT THAT LUEDER'S PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE THE DESTRUCTION OF A NUMBER OF POPULAR OUTDOOR CAFES AND RESTAURANTS, AND OLD PEOPLES' RECREATION HOME AND NUMEROUS PRIVATE DWELLINGS AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF CENTURY-OLD CHESTNUT TREES WHICH CURRENTLY LINE THE HEAVILY TRAVELED RUPPINER CHAUSSEE.)

2. INITIAL PRESS COMMENTARIES SHARPLY ATTACKED THE RISTOCK PLAN BECAUSE IT THREATENS TO DESTROY MORE OF WEST BERLIN'S FOREST AND RECREATION AREA. AT THE SAME TIME LUEDER HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY THE SPRINGER PRESS, PARTICULARLY MORGENPOST, WHICH ACCUSES HIM OF CHEAP POLITICAL POSTURING AND SEEKING TO BUILD UP HIS IMAGE AS THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS' FRIEND AT THE EXPENSE OF THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH THE GDR. CURIOUSLY, IN THE SAME MORGENPOST ARTICLE WHICH ATTACKED LUEDER, BERLIN'S CDU, WHICH WAITED ALMOST A WEEK BEFORE VENTURING ANY COMMENT ON THE QUESTION, WAS CRITICIZED FOR HAVING FAILED TO TAKE A STAND ON THE ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: THE PUBLIC DISPUTE OVER THE PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD TO THE HEILIGENSEE CROSSING POINT NEED NOT EVER HAVE TAKEN PLACE. RISTOCK SHOULD NOT HAVE RAISED THE SUBJECT PUBLICLY BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL SENAT COORDINATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCESS. ONCE IT WAS OUT, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO WAY TO KEEP LUEDER FROM SEIZING A READY-MADE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE HIS "GREEN" CREDENTIALS AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS COALITION PARTNER. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS THE WHOLE DISCUSSION MAY PROVE ACADEMIC SINCE NO DECISIONS CAN BE MADE ABOUT THE ACCESS ROUTE UNTIL THE FRG AND GDR REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE HAMBURG AUTOBAHN PACKAGE. THE PRESS SURMISES, HOWEVER, THAT THE GDR WILL SOMEHOW BE ABLE TO PLAY ON THIS INNER-SENAT BICKERING TO RAISE THE PRICE FOR THE NORTHERN AUTOBAHN. ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BERLIN ACCESS, DISPUTES, HIGHWAYS  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014